Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

SECRET MBFR VIENNA 0042

LIMDIS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: CONVERSATION WITH FRG REP ON FEBRUARY 11, 1977

1. US REP AND DEPREP WERE TOLD BY FRG REP BEHRENDS ON FEB 11
THAT FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE AD HOC GROUP REPORT ON THE
INTRODUCTORY PHASE OF DATA DISCUSSION (TEXT IN MBFR
VIENNA 0024, DTG 071810Z FEB 77) FRG ARMS CONTROL OFFICIAL RUTH
HAD DECIDED NOT TO TABLE THE GERMAN PAPER ON COUNTING RULES AND
DATA (TEXT IN STATE 020060 DTG 282048Z JAN 77) IN ITS PRESENT
FORM BECAUSE MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IS OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. RUTH
PLANS TO REVISE THE PAPER DROPPING THE FIRST SECTION ON COUNTING
RULES AND COVERING THE TOPICS OF RECATEGORIZATION AND
DISAGGREGATION, IN A NEW VERSION TO BE TABLED IN THE SPC AS
A QUOTE THINK PIECE UNQUOTE. RUTH EXPRESSED SOME ANNOYANCE TO
BEHRENDS THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED COMMENTS ON THE GERMAN PAPER
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FROM EITHER U.S. NOR U.K. RUTH HAD INDICATED HE COULD UNDERSTAND RELUCTANCE TO HAVE GENERAL DISCUSSION IN SPC OF GERMAN PAPER IN ITS PRESENT FORM, BUT HE WOULD NONETHELESS HAVE WELCOMED COMMENTS ON THE SUBSTANCE. US REP TOLD BEHRENDS COMMENTS HAD BEEN IN PREPARATION AS HE LEFT WASHINGTON.

2. BEHRENDS REPORTED THAT RUTH HAD ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THERE

HAD BEEN NO U.S. OR U.K. COMMENTS ON HIS EARLIER PAPER CALLING FOR A 2 TO 3 STAGE EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTION OF THE DISPARITY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN FORCES, ONCE THE EAST HAD ADMITTED TO A SIZEABLE DISPARITY. US REP TOLD BEHRENDS HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS HAD IN FACT COMMENTED ON THE PAPER TO THE EFFECT THAT THE BASIC CONCEPT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF AND WHEN THE EAST SHOWED WILLINGNESS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUBSTANTIAL MANPOWER SUPERIORITY IN ITS FAVOR. BEHRENDS SAID THAT RUTH NOW INTENDS TO TABLE THIS PAPER IN THE SPC, ALSO AS A QUOTE THINK PIECE UNQUOTE.

3. ON THE MODALITIES OF DATA DISCUSSION, BEHRENDS INDICATED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT BONN WAS NOW PREPARED, WHEN DISCUSSION HAD PROCEEDED SUFFICIENTLY FAR, TO AGREE TO A SUGGESTION TO THE EAST THAT DATA ON US AND SOVIET FORCES IN THE AREA BE TABLED, A STEP WHICH COULD BE JUSTIFIED WITH THE EAST ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE EAST HAD ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT THAT ONLY THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD REDUCE IN THE FIRST PHASE. BUT BONN WAS NOT READY TO AGREE AT THIS POINT THAT THE WEST SHOULD TABLE NATIONAL BREAKDOWNS. SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF THIS POSSIBILITY BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BONN COULD, IN BEHRENDS VIEW, AWAIT AN ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE DATA DISCUSSION WHICH CREATED A VISIBLE NEED TO TABLE DISAGGREGATED DATA. COMMENT: THIS CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO INDICATION FROM SOVIETS TO US REP THAT THEY WOULD REPLY TO WESTERN QUESTIONS ON EASTERN COUNTING RULES THAT THEY HAD INCLUDED ALL PACT MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THEIR DATA. END COMMENT.RESOR

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